

MINUTES
VERTEBRATE PEST CONTROL RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Sponsored by: Placer County Department of Agriculture
Community Development Resource Agency
3091 County Center Drive
North Auburn, California 95603
April 27, 2011

Members Present

Dan Spangler, Chairperson
Dale Huss
Ellen Des Jardins-Hirth
Karen Sweet
Mark Novak
Dennis Bray
Edward Meyer
Paul Stapp
Robert Timm
Victoria Hornbaker

Members Absent

Art Foster

Visitors

Jennifer Gordon
David Kratville
Ron Ross
Stephanie Shwiff
Peter Newman
Amna Hawatky
Stella McMillin
Denise Alder

Duane Schnabel
Josh Huntsinger
Katherine Horak
Roger Baldwin
Fred Rinder
Tim Howard
Micheal Leoni

INTRODUCTIONS

Welcome from Mr. Josh Huntsinger, Placer County Agricultural Commissioner.

Chairperson Dan Spangler called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. followed by the introductions of Committee members and guests.

BAGLEY-KEENE OPEN MEETING ACT AND VERTEBRATE PEST CONTROL RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMPLIANCE

Mr. Dan Spangler and the Committee acknowledged the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act and Vertebrate Pest Control Research Advisory Committee (VPCRAC) compliance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: **Robert Timm moved that the Committee approve the minutes from the October 13, 2010 meeting. The motion was seconded by Dale Huss and passed unanimously.**

FINANCIAL REPORT UPDATE

Ms. Hornbaker provided the Committee with information on the program budget, revenue, expenditures, and projections. The program budget for FY 2010/11 was authorized at \$979,608 and the program has spent approximately \$558,686 to date, including encumbrances. Research expenditures including encumbrances for FY 10/11 are approximately \$454,906. Ms. Hornbaker discussed the program fund condition and notified the Committee that if spending and revenues remain the same level the program will be out of money by FY 2013/2014. Based on this information the committee decided to reduce the overall budget for FY 2011/2012 to 600,000 to bring spending more in line with projected program revenues. The administrative budget for FY 11/12 was set at \$232,000.

Motion: Dale Huss moved that the Committee approve a \$600,000 program budget with an administrative budget in the amount of \$232,000 for the 2011/12 fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Paul Stapp and passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP: CONSIDERATION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR NEW MEMBER

Mr. Dennis Bray welcomed new board member Ms. Karen Sweet, owner and operator of Sweet Ranch in Livermore, California. Ms. Sweet has been an active cattle rancher since 1973. She has an impressive list of qualifications including working with Alameda County Resource Conservation District as an executive officer, working with CDFA in the Fair & Expositions division as an exhibit supervisor, and with Alameda County as Fair Exhibit Supervisor. She is also affiliated with the Alameda County Agriculture Advisory Committee, California Cattle Women's Association, and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Ms. Ellen Des Jardins-Hirth is considering retiring; Ms. Hornbaker request that the Committee consider replacements.

STATE BUDGET ISSUES AND CDFA RESTRUCTURING

Mr. Duane Schnabel updated the Committee on the changes in Integrated Pest Control Branch and all of CDFA. Mr. Schnabel updated on how the State budget will affect the VPCRAC program and what the program will need to do to work on maintaining funding.

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S RISK MITIGATION DECISION FOR TEN RODENTICIDES

Ms. Hornbaker updated the Committee on the status of the commercial and residential rodenticide uses. All CDFA chlorophacinone labels were granted reregistration and the amended labels were approved by the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). As of June 4, 2011, users that are not certified by DPR will not be able to use the CDFA field use rodenticides which are now federally restricted. All agricultural use baits are

federally restricted. Amendments to commercial and residential use baits are still in process and pending the rulings on several lawsuits.

UPDATE ON MEETING WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION, REGARDING THE IMPACT OF THE RESTRICTED USE DESIGNATION ON FIELD USE RODENTICIDES FOR SMALL FACILITIES "RANCHETTES"

Ms. Hornbaker reported on the continuing discussions with DPR on VPCRAC's developed exam for current (non-certified) rodenticide users. Two hour training sessions have been scheduled for the up coming months; the first will be in Dublin, CA on May 10th. The training session will accommodate approximately 60 people who will be tested immediately following the training. The VPCRAC website will include dates and locations for tests and training and will also provide study material to help prepare for the test.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION'S REEVALUATION OF SECOND GENERATION ANTICOAGULANT BAITS, STATUS AND PROPOSED ACTION

Ms. Denise Alder from DPR updated the Committee on the brodifacoum reevaluations. The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the USEPA are evaluating second generation exposure to wildlife. The Risk Mitigation decisions from 2006 for bait use restrictions are in a holding pattern depending on how second generation baits do after restrictions are placed to reduce wildlife exposure.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE REGISTRATION ISSUES

Dr. Roger Baldwin reported that the experiments on the voles in artichokes have shown that that voles are not taking the Zinc Phosphide treated bracts as well as the Chlorophacinone treated bracts. Reinstating the Chlorophacinone bract bait before losing it will give time to continue the experiments to encapsulate the Zinc Phosphide. The amended and corrected labels for Chlorophacinone and Diphacinone products are in and all are active.

DISCUSSION OF BAIT LABEL GRAZING RESTRICTIONS, DR. KATHERINE HORAK, NATIONAL WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTER

Dr. Katherine Horak reported on the prospect of conducting a whole body analysis of cattle grazed on pasture treated with rodenticide broadcast baits. This study could reduce the restrictions on grazing cattle while using the baits, from "do not graze cattle while bait is present," to some lower amount of time. Dr. Horak believes, based on literature studies and her PBPK model that cattle would not be able to consume enough bait to be significantly exposed. Data would need to be presented to EPA on the exposure to cows and secondary exposure to people eating the meat or drinking the milk of an exposed cow.

LEGISLATIVE/ REGULATORY UPDATE

Ms. Hornbaker updated us on the new assembly bill 634 which would authorize the use of carbon monoxide for the control of vertebrate pests, subject to specified provisions governing pest control operations and the use of agricultural chemicals. This technique would be used for burrowing rodents and would but as written would need additional safety regulations.

QUALITY ASSURANCE / QUALITY CONTROL PROGRAM

Ms. Hornbaker reported that we are still searching for the third party lab to do the quality control tests.

RESEARCH UPDATES

National Wildlife Research Center

Dr. Katherine Horak provided updates to the Committee on the following research projects:

“Development of a Pharmacokinetic Computer Model to Assure the Continued/Expanded Use of Anticoagulant Rodenticides” Dr. Horak reported that the computer model is complete and ready to receive data to populate graphs. This model calculates the risk of exposure to none target species.

“Pharmacokinetic Studies with Kestrels and Owls for Validating the CDFR/USDA Rodenticide PBPK Model” Dr. Horak reported that the studies on the Kestrels are complete and due to the winter storms the remaining studies on the owls had been delayed because some owls were lost in the storm.

“Using Liver Microsomes to Assess Resistance of Chlorphacinone and Diphacinone in Meadow Voles” Dr. Horak reported that research has been completed and the final report is being compiled.

“Using Liver Microsomes to Screen Anticoagulant/ Antibiotic Formulations for Ground Squirrels and Pocket Gophers” Dr. Horak reported that the squirrels and gophers tested are having little resistance metabolically.

“Increasing Acceptance of Zinc Phosphide Baits” began in January. Dr. Horak reported that cage trials and tests are on going, but that she is using voles from the NWRC breeding colony, due to difficulties with transporting voles from CA to CO.

“IN-vitro Inhibition of Chlorphacinone Metabolism in Resistant Meadow Voles Using FIFRA 25b Inert Ingredients” Dr. Horak reported that work is still progressing for this project and alternate ingredients are being screened for potential testing. Goals for this project include isolating liver microsomes from voles trapped in California and determining inert compounds to be tested for metabolic inhibitory properties.

“Using Liver Micorosomes to Screen Anticoagulant/ Inhibitor Formulations for Meadow Vole Control” Dr. Horak reported that transporting the meadow voles to their labs in Colorado were not working out and decided they will continue this project in a lab in California.

Dr. Stephanie Shwiff reported on her project titled **“Estimating Job and Revenue Savings from using a Variety of Pest Control Techniques to Project Crops from Bird and Rodent Damage in California.”** Funding for this project was just awarded in

January so data collection is set for September in California. The objective of this project is to estimate the amount of crop savings related to pest control measures in specific counties for selected crops and to quantify the number of jobs and the amount of revenue saved in each modeled county resulting from the pest control measure induced crop savings.

University of California

Dr. Roger Baldwin updated the Committee on the following projects:

“Development of an Integrated Pest Management Program for Vole Control in Artichokes” Dr. Baldwin reported that they are conducting population indexing using wax blocks, as they work better than bracts. Weed control seems to have a direct impact on vole populations as voles use weeds as a food and cover source. They intended to capture 30 voles with pitfall traps to monitor movements with radio collars.

“Reregistration of CDFA Baits for Control of Norway and Roof Rats in Agricultural Fields” Dr. Baldwin reported baiting trials began to determine minimum population of rats with bait blocks and remote-triggered cameras to show activity of rats. Work to determine efficacy of CDFA baits for controlling rats in agricultural settings is continuing.

“A Literature Review of Existing ‘Selective’ Bait Stations for Excluding Non-Target Animals and Metering Bait Dose” Dr. Baldwin reported that literature is available on the subject and it appears that in some cases selective stations work for deer mice.

“Vertebrate Pest Research “NEEDS ASSESSMENT” for California” Dr. Baldwin completed his survey to assess needs for pest control, 110 people completed the entire survey and 170 partially completed. All counties responded, but Fresno and Monterey had the highest response rates. Top three problems were ground squirrels, pocket gophers, and coyotes. New methods requested for the top four pests were for ground squirrels, pocket gophers, wild pigs, and coyotes. Poison baits were the most favored.

“Identifying the Level of Use of Aluminum Phosphide for Controlling Burrowing Pests in California” Dr. Baldwin stated that funding had just been received for this project and work had just begun.

Mr. Peter Newman updated the Committee on the following multimedia projects:

“Developing a Vertebrate Pest Control Digital Library” Mr. Newman is in the process of uploading slides of images of pest control to the library. Due to the sensitive and graphic nature of these images the library will be password protected and will have limited access. Policies for access will be discussed in the October meeting.

“Development and Evaluation of the VPCRAC website for Vertebrate Pest Research Information” Mr. Newman has developed the official VPCRAC website. He has maintained and updated this site with information and links for vertebrate pest control along with adding the minutes of each meeting, reports, and research for past and current projects.

“Food Safety and Rodent Control in Leafy Green Crops – Amended per VPCRAC Request” Mr. Newman presented the Committee with laminated cards for information on rodent pests, control, and formulas to assess damage of crops. He stated that it would be possible to get more made for distribution. The Committee requested if it was possible to translate the cards into Spanish. Mr. Schnabel suggested that a project be put together for distribution of these cards for use in outreach.

“Vertebrate Pest Control – Education and Certification using the Internet and Touch Screen Devices” Mr. Newman reported that ground squirrels are currently included on the site, but other pests will be added. This information will be linked to the VPCRAC website and include training videos, pictures and data on the top California

pests. This project would be driven to have a stand-alone kiosk for information access and surveys.

NEW RESEARCH AND FUNDING PROPOSALS

None Presented.

NEXT MEETING

The meeting adjourned 4:30p.m. The next Committee meeting will be held in Hanford, California of Kings County. The specific date for the meeting is October 5, 2011 from 8:30a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

SUBMITTED;



Victoria Hornbaker
Secretary

9/7/11

Date